

RE: Proceeding #02-306

The San Luis Obispo County Economic Vitality Corporation is the regional organization that is charged with the stewardship of our region's economy. In that role we are continually interested in encouraging public policy that helps strengthen a region's economy. We see the policy related to the long distance market in the telecommunication industry as such a policy. A policy that encourages competition spawns creativity, innovation and greater price competition. Such results are a helpful to our region's businesses.

We strongly urge the FCC to approve SBC Pacific Bell's application to provide long distance service in the state and our region. Opening the market to such competition is good for the economy. Other states are experiences the positive results of such competition. We would like to have that same environment in California.

Again, we urge you to approved the application to increase the telecommunications competition in our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ray Johnson
President/CEO
San Luis Obispo Economic Vitality Corporation